

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1707

To apologize for the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To apologize for the treatment of Italian Americans during
World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. APOLOGY FOR THE TREATMENT OF ITALIAN**
4 **AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Over 15 million Italians have immigrated to
7 the United States since 1852.

8 (2) Italian immigrants have provided a culture
9 and heritage that has enriched American life.

10 (3) The treatment of Italian Americans during
11 World War II was authorized by the Act of July 6,

1 1798 (Chapter 66, Sec. 1; 1 Stat. 577; 50 U.S.C.
2 21; commonly known as the Alien Enemies Act).

3 (4) Additional authority for the treatment of
4 Italian Americans during World War II was based
5 on Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407) and
6 Executive Order 9102 (7 Fed. Reg. 2165).

7 (5) These orders required Italian-born citizens
8 and their families to carry identification cards, face
9 travel restrictions, and obey curfews.

10 (6) These orders authorized the seizure of per-
11 sonal property.

12 (7) 10,000 Italian Americans living on the West
13 Coast were forced to leave their homes and were
14 prohibited from entering coastal zones during World
15 War II.

16 (8) Thousands of Italian American immigrants
17 were arrested and hundreds were interned in mili-
18 tary camps during World War II.

19 (9) The treatment of Italian Americans during
20 World War II needs to be acknowledged in order to
21 remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted
22 and whose freedoms were violated.

23 (10) Acknowledging and apologizing for the
24 treatment of Italian Americans during World War II
25 would help repair the Italian American community

1 and would discourage the occurrence of similar in-
2 justices and violations of civil liberties in the future.

3 (b) STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.—For these funda-
4 mental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitu-
5 tional rights of Italian Americans during World War II,
6 Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.

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